are employed in the various textile sectors. As per the report of the Working Group on Textiles and Jute Industry for the Tenth Five Year Plan, the number of persons working in the mill, powerloom and handloom sector is given below:

Employment in Textile Sectors (Mn nos.)

Sr. No.	Sector/Industry (Estimated)	Employment in March 2001
1	Cotton/man made fibre/yarn textile/mill sector (including SSI spinning and exclusive weaving units)	1.07
2	Decentralised powerloom sector	4.15
3	Handloom sector	12.00

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. As per the report of the Working Group on Textiles and the Jute Industry for the Tenth Five Year Plan, the Government has ascertained the increase in number of persons working in these sectors, which in as under:

Employment in Textile Sectors

		Employment in (In Mn. Nos.)		
Sr. No.	Sector/Industry	As on March 2001 (Estimated)	Projected for the terminal year of the Tenth Plan	% increase
1	Cotton/man made fibre/yarn textile/mill sector (including SSI spinning and exclusive weaving units)	1.07	1.10	2.80
2	Decentralised powerloom sector	4.15	4.25	2.41
3	Handloom sector	12.00	12.40	3.33

Export of Textiles

676. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the textile exports during the last three years;

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(b) the names of the countries to which exports have been made; and

(c) the remedial measures taken in the this regard for improvement?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) As per Directorate General of Commerce Intelligence & Statistics (DGCI&S) data, the textile exports during the last three years i.e., 2001-02,2002-03 and 2003-04 has been as given below:-

Year	Value (In US$ million)
April 2001-March 2002	10764.7
April 2002-March 2003	12412.7
April 2003-March 2004	13159.5

(b) India's textile products are exported to more than hundred countries of the world. However, the USA, EU Member States, U.A.E., Japan, Saudi Arabia, Canada, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Australia etc. have been the major importing countries of our textile products during the last three years.

(c) To strengthen domestic textile industry for meeting the growing global competition, the following important announcements have been made in the Union Budget 2004-05:

Except for mandatory excise duty on polyester filament yam including texturised yarn, synthetic and artificial fibres and synthetic and artificial filament yarns, the whole value addition chain has been given excise exemption option.

Additional Excise Duty on Textiles & Textile Articles (AT&T) and Additonal Excise Duty (Goods of Special Importance) Act have been abolished.

Basic customs duty on various textile machinery and spare parts has been reduced to 5%.

Besides, Government has been taking a number of steps from time to time to boost textile exports from the country. Some of the important initiatives taken are:

(i) The Government has de-reserved the woven segment of readymade garment from the SSI sector. It has also raised the SSI investment limit for knitted segment to Rs. 5 crores.

(ii) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been made operational from 1-4-1999 to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of the sector.

(iii) Weaving, processing and garment machinery, which are covered under TUFS, have been extended the facility of accelerated depreciation at the rate of 50%. Cost of machinery has also been reduced through Fiscal Policy measures. This further encourages modernisation.

(iv) with a view to making fabric production competitive, the custom duty on shuttleless looms has been brought from 15% to 5%.

(v) National Institute for Fashion Technology (NIFT), its six branches and Apparel Training & Design Centres (ATDCs) are running various courses/programmes to meet skilled manpower requirements of textile industry especially apparel in the field of design, merchandising and marketing.

(vi) Facilities by way of eco-testing laboratories have been created to enable exporters to get the garments/textiles pre-tested for conforming to the requirements of importing countries.

(vii) The Government has launched a centrally sponsored scheme titled "Apparel Park for Export Scheme" for imparting focused thrust for setting up of apparel manufacturing units of international standards at potential growth centres and to give fillip to exports.

(viii) For upgrading infrastructure facilities at important textile centers, a scheme Textile Centre Infrastructure Development Scheme' (TCIDS) has been launched.

(ix) The Export Promotion Councils have been undertaking export promotion events like participation in overseas exhibitions/fairs, organizing BSMs abroad, sponsoring trade delegations in consultation with Indian Mission at abroad.